

Guide to Reading Geoffrey Chaucer's Blogge



Did you know renowned medieval writer Geoffrey Chaucer has a blog? Chaucer's blog is <http://houseoffame.blogspot.com/>. A warning: Just like his *Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer's blog can be PG-13.

Chaucer's Middle English is quite different from our own. One thing that helps me to understand Middle English to read it with the thought that whoever wrote the piece cannot spell very well; however, I do have a few other tricks and tips for you as you explore Geoffrey Chaucer's "blogge."

- Try reading it out loud. If it is spelled strange, sometimes hearing how it sounds will help you figure out the word. For example, try saying *gretre* out loud keeping in mind the British spelling of "metre" for "meter." It is the word "greater."
- Ich=I: Those of you who know German might recognize *Ich* as the pronoun *I* in German, as in "*Ich liebe dich*," means "I love you."
- Sometimes *u* is used in place of *v*. For example, the word *euen* is *even*. This is an archaic usage that comes from Latin.
- Sometimes *y* is used in place of *i*. For example *yt* is *it*.
- Sometimes *w* is a vowel. For example, *swich* is *such*.
- Try the links in the sidebar under "Howe to Reade My Writinges."

With these tips in mind, select one or two posts to read on the blog. I suggest picking from the posts in the sidebar labeled "Favourite Posts." My special favorites are "Ich Pwne Noobs," "The Ocks Menne," "I wolde I knewe of thee how I might be Quitten," "Serpentes on a Shippe," "Lament for Sir William," and "Idea for a Poem about Canterbury!" However, it's really hard to go wrong, as the blog is pretty funny. After you've read the post, complete the following questions in complete sentences:

1. Summarize the post. What is it about?
2. What modern event/person/etc. is the post satirizing? How?
3. Does the post work as a piece of satire? Why/why not? (Don't cop out and say, "no, because it's too hard to read." I shall turn up my nose at such japery.)